

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled) A method, comprising:
in response to a request by a user to initiate a session for a service with a communication system, receiving from the communication system, at an authentication and authorization device in a home network of the user, a request for an authorization and authentication of the user to initiate the session; and
~~using an~~ in response to the request for the authorization and authentication of the user,
sending by the authentication and authorization device, to a server node in the communication network, information comprising an authorization and authentication profile associated with ~~[[a]] the user, including the authorization and authentication profile is sent from an authentication and authorization device located in a home network to a server node; and the authorization and authentication profile is stored at the server node,~~ wherein the authorization and authentication profile contains information which allows the server node to directly authorize and authenticate the user, ~~directly~~ without contacting the authentication and authorization device, in order to initiate a subsequent session for a service with the communication system for the user, and wherein the authorization and authentication profile further contains information defining that the authentication and authorization device is to be contacted when at least one condition is met, where the at least one condition comprises that a number of simultaneous sessions for the user is equal to a predetermined number.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
~~transferring~~ said information comprising the authorization and authentication profile
is sent from the authentication and authorization device to the server node in at least one of a
signaling path for a service setup, a service event, and a registration.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said
information comprising the authorization and authentication profile indicates[[,]] that at least
one of the authentication and authorization[[,]] needs to be verified for every session initiated
by the user.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~
~~performing at least one of the authentication and the authorization of the user wherein~~
the at least one condition further comprises that if a subsequent session is a multimedia
session then the authentication and authorization device is to be contacted.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 4, further comprising:
~~performing, by the authentication and authorization device, at least one of the~~
~~authentication and the authorization and authentication~~ of the user ~~by using the authentication~~
~~and authorization device~~ and providing an indication of the authorization and authentication
of the user in the information comprising the authorization and authentication profile sent to
the server node.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 4, ~~where at least one of the authentication and the authorization of the user is performed in the server node when the required parameters are available~~ wherein the at least one condition further comprises that if a session is initiated at a predefined time of day and the user is being served by at least one of a plurality of predetermined networks then the authentication and authorization device is to be contacted.

7. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
sending, in response to a request from a user to initiate a session for service with a communications network, a request for authorization and authentication of the user towards an authentication and authorization device located in a home network of the user;
receiving at a server node in the communication system, from the authentication and authorization device, using an information comprising an authorization and authentication profile associated with ~~[[a]]~~ the user, ~~wherein the authorization and authentication profile is received from an authentication and authorization device located in a home network, wherein the authorization and authentication profile is stored in a server node, wherein the~~ authorization and authentication profile contains information which allows the server node to directly authorize and authenticate the user, ~~directly~~ without contacting the authentication and authorization device, in order to initiate a subsequent session for a service with the communication system for the user, and wherein the information further includes [a] at least one condition that, when satisfied, determines that the authentication and authorization device

is to be contacted; and

providing access to ~~[[a]]~~ the service responsive to based on said authorization and authentication profile, wherein the at least one condition is comprises that authorization and authentication is verified with the authentication and authorization device when a number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:
receiving a request to initiate another service with the communications network;
determining ~~whether~~ that said at least one condition is not satisfied; and
based on said at least one condition not being satisfied, providing automatic access to
said another service without authorizing and authenticating the user ~~when said condition is~~
~~not satisfied.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:
receiving a request to initiate another service with the communications network;
determining ~~whether~~ that said at least one condition is satisfied;
based on said at least one condition being satisfied, sending a request to authorizing
authorize and authenticating authenticate the user to said authentication and authorization
device when said condition is satisfied; and
subsequent to ~~authorizing and authenticating~~ receiving information comprising an
indication of authorization and authentication for the user from said authentication and
authorization device, providing access to said another service when said authorizing

information indicates that the user is permitted to access said service.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 7~~ claim 9, further comprising:

determining whether said at least one condition is satisfied when a call session between said user and a service provider node is initiated.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:
determining from the authorization and authentication profile associated with said user when said at least one condition exists during a call session between a user terminal and a service provider node.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:
indicating, via said authorization and authentication profile, when access to said service is permitted without determining, from data stored at a server node in said home network, whether access is permitted.

13. - 16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein ~~information~~
~~indicates whether said user is authorized to access said service~~ said at least one condition
further comprises that if a subsequent session is a multimedia session then the authentication

and authorization device is to be contacted.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 7~~ claim 17, wherein ~~information indicates whether said user is authenticated to access said service~~ said at least one condition further comprises that if a subsequent session is initiated at a predefined time of day and the user is being served by one of a plurality of predetermined networks then the authentication and authorization device is to be contacted.

19. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said at least one condition determines a frequency at which said user is to be at least one of authorized or authenticated during a call session between a user terminal and a service provider node.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

at least one processor; and

at least one memory including computer program code, where the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured, with the at least one processor, to cause the apparatus to at least:

at least one interface configured to receive a message request from a user terminal to initiate a session for a service in a communication network; and to

in response to said request from the user terminal, receive information comprising an

authorization and authentication profile associated with a user of the user terminal from an authentication and authorization device located in a home network of the user;

~~a memory configured to~~ store the authorization and authentication profile associated with the user, wherein the authorization and authentication profile contains information which allows direct authorization and authentication of the user ~~to be authorized and authenticated directly with~~ by the apparatus without contacting the authentication and authorization device, in order to initiate a subsequent session for a service with the communication system for the user, and wherein the information further includes [[a]] at least one condition that, when satisfied, determines that the authentication and authorization device is to be contacted; and

~~the apparatus configured,~~ in response to said authorization and authentication profile, ~~to~~ generate an access message to provide [[a]] the user with access to [[a]] initiate the service from a service provider node, wherein the at least one condition is comprises a condition that authorization and authentication is verified with the authentication and authorization device when a number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number.

22-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

storing an authorization and authentication profile, associated with a user, wherein the authorization and authentication profile is stored at a serving node in a serving network wherein the authorization and authentication profile is received from an authentication and

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authorization device located in a home network; wherein the authorization and authentication profile is received in response to a request by the user to initiate a session for a service with the serving network; and

using said authorization and authentication profile at said serving node, wherein said authorization and authentication profile contains information which allows direct authorization and authentication of the user to be authorized and authenticated directly with the serving node in the serving network without contacting the authentication and authorization device, in order to initiate a subsequent session for a service with the serving network for the user, wherein the information further includes [[a]] at least one condition that, when satisfied, determines that the authentication and authorization device is to be contacted, and wherein the at least one condition is comprises that authorization and authentication is verified with the authentication and authorization device when a number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number is equal to a predetermined number.

30. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

at least one processor; and

at least one memory including computer program code, where the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured, with the at least one processor, to cause the apparatus to at least:

an interface configured to receive a message from a user terminal, where the message comprises a request from a user of the user terminal to initiate a session for a service;

a receiver configured to in response to the request, receive data comprising an

authorization and authentication profile from an authentication and authorization device located in a home network, wherein the authorization and authentication profile is associated with the user;

~~a memory configured to store said authorization and authentication profile;~~
~~a processor configured to use [[an]] said authorization and authentication profile~~ associated with said user terminal, wherein the authorization and authentication profile contains information which allows direct authorization and authentication of the [[a]] user to be authorized and authenticated directly with the apparatus without contacting an authentication and authorization device located in a home network, in order to initiate a subsequent session for a service for the user, and wherein the information further includes [[a]] at least one condition that, when satisfied, determines that the authentication and authorization device is to be contacted, and

~~the processor configured to generate, in response to said authorization and authentication profile, an access message to provide said user with access to a service from a service provider node, wherein the at least one condition is comprises that authorization and authentication is verified with the authentication and authorization device when a number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number.~~

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

at least one processor; and

at least one memory including computer program code, where the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured, with the at least one processor, to cause the

apparatus to at least:

~~a processor configured to~~ use an authorization and authentication profile associated with a user, wherein said authorization and authentication profile was received in response to a request by a user to initiate a session for a service with a communication system, wherein the authorization and authentication profile contains information which allows direct authorization and authentication of the user ~~to be authorized and authenticated directly~~ with the apparatus, in order to initiate a subsequent session for a service for the user, without contacting ~~the~~ an authentication and authorization device in a home network of the user, and wherein the information further includes [[a]] at least one condition that, when satisfied, determines that the authentication and authorization device is to be contacted in order to initiate a subsequent session for a service for the user, and

~~the processor configured to~~ generate, in response to said authorization and authentication profile, an access message to provide said user with access to a service from a service provider node, wherein the condition is that authorization and authentication is verified with the authentication and authorization device when a number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number.

32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, ~~further comprising: a transmitter configured~~ wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured, with the at least one processor, to cause the apparatus to transmit said access message to the service provider node.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, the apparatus comprising a serving or proxy-call session control function node.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said authorization and authentication profile comprises a first data field identifying said user and a second data field determining when at least one of authentication and authorization of said user is required in order to access said service.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, comprising storage configured to store the authorization and authentication profile.

38. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, ~~further comprising: a transmitter configured wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured, with the at least one processor, to cause the apparatus to~~ transmit said access message to the service provider node.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, the apparatus comprising a serving or proxy-call session control function node.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said authorization and authentication profile comprises a first data field identifying said user and a second data field determining when at least one of authentication and authorization of said user is required in order to access said service.

42. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a message from a user terminal, where the message comprises a request from a user of the user terminal to initiate a session for a service;

receiving, in response to the request, data comprising ~~said~~ an authorization and authentication profile associated with the user, where the data is received from an authentication and authorization device located in a home network;

using ~~an~~ said authorization and authentication profile associated with ~~[[a]]~~ the user of said user terminal, wherein the authorization and authentication profile contains information which allows direct authorization and authentication of the user ~~to be authorized and authenticated directly~~ with a server node without contacting the authentication and authorization device, in order to initiate a subsequent session for a service for the user, wherein the information further includes ~~[[a]]~~ at least one condition that, when satisfied, determines that the authentication and authorization device is to be contacted, and wherein the authorization and authentication profile is stored in the server node; and

generating, in response to said authorization and authentication profile, an access message providing said user with access to a service from a service provider node, wherein the at least one condition is comprises that authorization and authentication is verified with the authentication and authorization device when a number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number.

43. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 42, further comprising:

transmitting said access message to the service provider node.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 42, wherein said authorization and authentication profile comprises a first data field identifying said user and a second data field determining when at least one of authentication and authorization of said user is required in order to access said service.

46. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving data comprising an authorization and authentication profile, where the data is received from the authentication and authorization device in a home network of a user, wherein the data comprising the authorization and authentication profile is received in response to a request by the user to initiate a session for a service in a communication system;

using ~~an~~ the authorization and authentication profile associated with a the user, wherein the authorization and authentication profile contains information which allows direct authorization and authentication of the user ~~to be authorized and authenticated directly~~ with a server node of the communication system without contacting an authentication and authorization device located in a the home network of the user, in order to initiate a subsequent session for a service for the user, wherein the information further includes a at least one condition that, when satisfied, determines that the authentication and authorization device is to be contacted, and wherein the ~~an~~ authorization and authentication profile is stored in a the server node; and

generating, in response to said authorization and authentication profile, an access message providing said user with access to a service from a service provider node, wherein the at least one condition ~~is~~ comprises that authorization and authentication is verified with the authentication and authorization device when a number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number.

47. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 46, further comprising:

transmitting said access message to the service provider node.

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 46, wherein said

authorization and authentication profile comprises a first data field identifying said user and a second data field determining when at least one of authentication and authorization of said user is required in order to access said service.

50. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium embodying a computer program, the program executable by a processor to perform operations comprising:
receiving a message from a user terminal, wherein the message comprises a request from a user of the user terminal to initiate a session for a service;

in response to the request, receiving data comprising an authorization and authentication profile, where the data is received from an authentication and authorization device located in a home network of the user;

using ~~an~~ the authorization and authentication profile associated with a the user of the user terminal, wherein the authorization and authentication profile contains information which allows direct authorization and authentication of the user to be authorized and authenticated directly with a server node without contacting ~~an~~ the authentication and authorization device located in a the home network of the user, in order to initiate a subsequent session for a service for the user, wherein the information further includes [[a]] at least one condition that, when satisfied, determines that the authentication and authorization device is to be contacted, and wherein the authorization and authentication profile is stored in the server node; and.

generating, in response to said authorization and authentication profile, an access message providing said user with access to a service from a service provider node, wherein

the at least one condition is comprises that authorization and authentication is verified with the authentication and authorization device when a number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number.

51. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium embodying a computer program, the program executable by a processor to perform operations comprising:

in response to a request by a user to initiate a session for a service with a communication system, receiving from the communication system, at an authentication and authorization device in a home network of the user, a request for an authorization and authentication of the user to initiate the session; and

using an in response to the request for the authorization and authentication of the user, sending by the authentication and authorization device, to a server node in the communication network, information comprising an authorization and authentication profile associated with [[a]] the user, wherein the authorization and authentication profile contains information which allows the server node to directly authorize and authenticate the user to be authorized and authenticated directly with a server node in order to initiate a subsequent session for a service for the user without contacting an the authentication and authorization device located in a the home network, wherein the information further includes [[a]] at least one condition that, when satisfied, determines that the authentication and authorization device is to be contacted, and wherein the authorization and authentication profile is stored in the server node; and

generating, in response to said authorization and authentication profile, an access

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message providing said user with access to a service from a service provider node, wherein the at least one condition is comprises that authorization and authentication is verified with the authentication and authorization device when a number of simultaneous sessions for the user is equal to a predetermined number.